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12
13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
15

16 ADELA GONZALEZ, on behalf of
17 herself and all others similarly situated,
18
19 Plaintiff,

20 v.

21 BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
22 HOMESTATE COMPANIES, a
23 Nebraska Corporation; CYPRESS
24 INSURANCE COMPANY, a California
25 Corporation; ZENITH INSURANCE
26 COMPANY, a California Corporation;
27 WILLIAM REYNOLDS, an
28 individual; OLIVER GLOVER,
an individual; HQSU SIGN-UP
SERVICES, INC., a California
Corporation and DOES 1 to 10,
inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO: 16-2690

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR
RELIEF BASED ON:**

**(1) Violation of the Computer Fraud
and Abuse Act (18 U.S.C. §1030 et
seq.)**

**(2) Violation of Unlawful Access to
Stored Communications Act (18
U.S.C. §2701 et seq.)**

**(3) Violation of the Electronic
Communications Privacy Act, 18
U.S.C. §§2510 et seq.**

**(4) Invasion of Privacy (Public
Disclosure of Private Facts)**

**(5) Intentional Interference with
Prospective Economic Advantage**

**(6) Violation of the California
Computer Data Access and Fraud Act
(Cal. Penal Code §502 et seq.)**

(7) Violation of California Business and Professions Code §17200

(8) Conversion

(9) Negligence

(10) Violation of the California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Cal. Civ. Code §56, et seq.)

(11) Violation of California Data Security and Breach Notification Act (Cal. Civ. Code §1798.80, et seq.)

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT

SUMMARY OF THE CASE

1. Defendants Berkshire Hathaway Homestate Companies (“Berkshire Hathaway” or “BHHC”), Cypress Insurance Company (Cypress”) and Zenith Insurance Company (“Zenith”) and the other named hacking defendants illegally accessed and downloaded privileged and confidential litigation files of thousands of individuals litigating cases against them. The hacking defendants stole these files from servers used by law firms representing the individual litigants. BHHC, Cypress and Zenith are major worker’s compensation insurance companies doing business in California and nationwide and many of the files were for workers compensation

1 litigants.

2 2. The defendants acted in complete disregard of constitutional and
3 statutory law and applicable ethical and moral standards. Their corrupt conduct
4 evidenced a total disregard for fair play and disregard for the integrity of the judicial
5 system.
6

7
8 3. The hacking defendants are presently known to have hacked in excess of
9 32,000 litigation files.

10 4. Defendants' illegal hacking of privileged documents undermines the
11 integrity of the judicial system which damages all Americans. The American
12 system of justice depends upon fair play in an impartial forum. A fair and
13 impartial forum for rich and poor alike is central feature of the American way of
14 life and is important to our national reputation. This lawsuit is directed against
15 those powerful insurance companies and their co-conspirators who because of
16 their immense wealth and power acted as if they were above the law and in total
17 disdain of our cherished concept of fair play in an impartial forum. The hacking
18 defendants each conspired with one another, and aided and abetted one another, to
19 break the laws set forth in this Complaint regarding computer security,
20 confidential information and privacy.
21

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24
25 5. Plaintiff is a client of the law firm of Reyes & Barsoum LLP who was
26 pursuing a worker's compensation lawsuit on her behalf. She brings this
27 proposed nationwide class action lawsuit on behalf of both Reyes & Barsoum clients
28

1
2 and other similarly situated clients whose privileged litigation files, with personal
3 information, have been compromised as a result of the intentional data breach by
4 defendants. Plaintiff seeks compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, as well as
5 injunctive relief requiring defendants to refrain from all illegal computer intrusions.
6

7
8 **PARTIES**

9
10 6. Plaintiff Adela Gonzalez is a resident of Los Angeles County,
11 California. Plaintiff's personal identifying information was compromised when the
12 Hacking Defendants accessed HQSU servers, including but not limited to her full
13 name, Social Security Number, birth date, home address, legal status, driver's license
14 information, salary information, medical information and confidential legal
15 information. To date, Plaintiff Gonzalez has expended hours and hours attempting to
16 safeguard herself and her family members from identity theft or other harms caused
17 by the release of her personal identifying information as a result of the cyberattack.
18 Going forward, Plaintiff Gonzalez anticipates spending considerable time each day
19 in an effort to contain the impact of the stealing of her personal identifying
20 information on herself and her family members. Plaintiff's workers compensation
21 case was also compromised because privileged and confidential information relating
22 to her case was accessed and downloaded – the intent of the Hacking Defendants.
23
24
25

26 7. Defendant Berkshire Hathaway is a Nebraska corporation with its
27 principal place of business in Omaha, Nebraska.
28

1 8. Defendant Cypress Insurance Company (“Cypress”) is a California
2 corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Homestate
3 Companies. Its principal place of business is San Francisco, California.
4

5 9. Defendant Zenith Insurance Company (“Zenith”) is a California
6 corporation with its principal place of business in Woodland Hills, California.
7

8 10. Defendant William Reynolds (“Reynolds”) is an investigator who at
9 one time was employed by Defendant Berkshire Hathaway and continues to hold
10 himself out as an employee and/or agent of Berkshire Hathaway. He is a resident of
11 the State of California.
12

13 11. Defendant Oliver Glover (“Glover”) is an employee of Zenith
14 Insurance Company and is a resident of the State of California.
15

16 12. Defendants Berkshire Hathaway, Cypress, Zenith, Reynolds, and
17 Glover are collectively referred to as the “Hacking Defendants”.
18

19 13. Defendant HQSU Sign Services, Inc. is a California corporation with its
20 principal place of business located at 1609 East Palmdale Blvd. Suite D, Palmdale,
21 California 93550. HQSU’s president and registered agent for service of process is
22 Carlos Humberto Morales. At all times relevant to this Complaint, HQSU
23 maintained substantial and continuous contacts in the State of California and within
24 the Central District in particular, and the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims
25 against HQSU arise out of the acts and omissions occurring within the jurisdiction
26 and venue of this Court.
27
28

1
2 14. Plaintiff does not know the true names and capacities of defendants sued
3 herein as Does 1 to 10, inclusive, and therefore sues these defendants by such
4 fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege their true names and
5 capacities when ascertained. However, on information and belief, Does 1 to 10
6 were/are the agents or employees or co-conspirators of each of the other
7 defendants and are/were at all times relevant acting within the purpose and scope
8 of such agency, employment, or conspiracy.
9
10

11 15. All of the defendants, named and unknown, are legally responsible
12 either directly or vicariously (under theories of agency, conspiracy, or aiding and
13 abetting) for all of the illegal constitutional, statutory, and tortious conduct alleged
14 in this Complaint.
15

16 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

17

18 16. Jurisdiction is proper in this court because this litigation arises under
19 federal law, including 18 U.S.C. §1030, et seq. (“Computer Fraud and Abuse
20 Act”), 18 U.S.C. §2701, et seq. (“Stored Communication Act”), and 18 U.S.C.
21 §§2510, et seq. (“Electronic Communications Privacy Act”). The Court has
22 jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question). The court
23 also has jurisdiction over the state claims pursuant to its pendant and ancillary
24 jurisdiction power.
25
26

27 17. This Court has personal jurisdiction over defendants as they each are
28

1 registered to conduct business in California, have sufficient minimum contacts in
2 California, or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the markets within
3 California, through the promotion, sale, marketing and distribution of their
4 products in California, to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court proper
5 and necessary. Defendants Cypress and Zenith are incorporated in California.
6

7
8 18. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and
9 1391(c) because Plaintiff resides in this District, Defendants conduct substantial
10 business in this District, and a substantial part of the events giving rise to plaintiff's
11 claims occurred in this District.
12

13 **COMMON FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14 **Plaintiff's Electronically-Stored, Privileged Litigation Files**

15
16 19. Defendants BHHC, Cypress, and Zenith are among the largest providers
17 of worker's compensation insurance in the United States. Together they provide
18 a significant percentage of the worker's compensation insurance in California.
19 These firms hired investigators who hacked into and stole stored confidential
20 attorney-client files including files in which they were the insurer. Thousands
21 of files have been pilfered and used by defendants in contravention of federal and
22 state statutory law, case law, and standards of professional conduct.
23
24

25 20. The law firm of Reyes & Barsoum LLP specializes in worker's
26 compensation, normally representing injured workers. Reyes & Barsoum contracted
27 with HQSU to provide administrative services for clients unable to come to the
28

1
2 office due to physical, financial, or transportation limitations. HQSU maintained the
3 servers on which personal client data was stored and on which the litigation files
4 were stored.

5
6 21. HQSU is paid a pre-negotiated flat fee. HQSU represented to clients
7 and agreed that it would keep clients' – including Plaintiff's – information secure
8 and confidential.

9
10 22. In the case of Reyes & Barsoum clients, the accepting attorney
11 informs the client that they will be contacted by HQSU for the purpose of signing
12 a retainer agreement and filling out an In-Take Packet with personal information.
13 HQSU then uploads the documents to its username and password-protected
14 website. The information on this website is only available to Reyes & Barsoum
15 attorneys following verification of username and password. Reyes & Barsoum
16 may download existing documents, upload additional documents, and leave notes
17 and comments related to the cases in the files stored for it by HQSU. This practice is
18 used by all the other attorneys using the HQSU services.

19
20
21 23. Unbeknownst to Reyes & Barsoum or Plaintiff, and contradicting
22 HQSU's assurances to the contrary, HQSU failed to provide adequate or responsible
23 protections against unlawful access to the confidential and privileged it stored.
24 Moreover, following the other Defendants' unlawful accessing and converting the
25 data, as alleged below, HQSU failed to report the hacking activity to Plaintiff,
26
27
28

1 Reyes & Barsoum, other law firms using its services or the approximately 33 000
2 class members which information such as Social Security numbers, home addresses,
3 telephone numbers, legal statuses, drivers licenses information, medical information,
4 employment information was taken. In addition HQSU failed to inform law
5 enforcement or appropriate government oversight agencies.
6

7
8 **The Discovery of the Hacking Defendants' Unlawful Computer Hacking**

9 24. The Hacking Defendants' hacking of the HQSU files was first
10 suspected during an in-chambers hearing in a worker's compensation case before
11 Presiding Judge Paige Levy. The hearing involved defense motions to compel
12 further testimony of Applicant Hector Casillas and an HQSU employee, Chantelle
13 Obregon, on April 20, 2014 in the matter of Hector Casillas vs. Xeres Corp;
14 Broadspire Claims Services, WCAB NO. ADJ903073.
15

16
17 25. At the in-chambers conference, Knox Ricksen's attorneys revealed
18 they had Mr. Casillas' attorney-privileged In-Take Packet which bore the name
19 "ATTORNEY: Rony M. Barsoum, Esq." at the top of the document's first page as
20 well as the Reyes & Barsoum Retainer Agreement signed by Mr. Casillas.
21

22 26. Judge Levy immediately asked Knox Ricksen's attorney how he
23 came into possession of Mr. Casillas' In-Take packet. The attorney first responded
24 that it was obtained from the HQSU "website". The attorney then changed his story
25 and told Judge Levy that Ms. Obregon, HQSU's representative, had provided it to
26 defendant. Finally, the attorney told Judge Levy that he "did not know" where the
27
28

1
2 privileged documents came from.

3 27. Judge Levy conducted an in-camera review of the documents and
4 determined that they were protected by the attorney-client privilege. Judge Levy
5 ordered Knox Ricksen to turn over the document to Reyes & Barsoum and
6 instructed Knox Ricksen's attorneys that they were ethically required to conduct a
7 diligent search and notify Reyes & Barsoum if there were additional copies of the
8 document and, if so, to turn them over to Reyes & Barsoum.
9
10

11 28. At no time during the session with Judge Levy did the attorneys for
12 Knox Ricksen inform Judge Levy or Reyes & Barsoum that Knox Ricksen was in
13 possession of tens of thousands of files of other attorney-client files.
14

15 29. Plaintiff's intake packet was among the 33 000 thousand files
16 unlawfully accessed and downloaded by the Hacking Defendants' in a same manner
17 as Hector Casillas's In-Take packet.
18
19

20 **Defendants' Admitted Unlawful Downloading of**
21 **Thousands of Confidential Files**

22 30. On or about November 2014, Jorge Reyes had a telephonic discussion
23 with attorney Danowitz from Knox Ricksen. During that conversation, attorney
24 Danowitz admitted that the Casillas In-Take Packet had been downloaded from the
25 HQSU website, along with thousands of other files, and further boasted that he even
26 had a videotape of the method used to accessing the confidential documents from
27
28

1
2 HQSU.

3 31. The videotape of the method used to access the confidential documents
4 from the HQSU website depicts Defendant Reynolds scrolling down a list of files
5 where Plaintiff's file is one of the files on that list which was later downloaded.
6

7 32. Plaintiff's home address, telephone numbers, birth date, Social Security
8 number, email address, legal status, drivers license information, medical information,
9 employment information, salary information and personal information unlawfully
10 became in the possession of the "Hacking defendants" and may even be now in the
11 hands of criminals sold on the "black market".
12

13
14 **Defendants' Conspiracy to Violate State and Federal**
15 **Computer Security Laws**

16 33. Defendants Reynolds and Glover are private investigators. Reynolds
17 was employed by and/or acted as an agent for BHHC, and continues to hold himself
18 out as employed by BHHC. Oliver Glover was and is employed by defendant
19 Zenith.
20

21
22 34. At the direction of BHHC and Zenith and possibly others presently
23 unknown, Reynolds and Glover intentionally implemented a scheme to wrongfully
24 engage in a continuous pattern of cyberattacks over a period of years to access,
25 obtain, retain, and use thousands of attorney-client privileged documents of
26 claimants and their attorneys in litigation in order to gain a litigation advantage and
27
28

1 save huge sums in judgments or settlements. Moreover such information was easily
2 available to be sold to the “black market” for financial gain.

3
4 35. In a Declaration provided by Reynolds in *Casillas v. Xerxes Corp., et*
5 *al., California Workers Compensation Appeals Board Case No. AD 19030735,*
6 Reynolds admits that he is a private investigator, and that he and Glover
7 participated in downloading from HQ Sign Up “approximately 32,500 intake
8 sheets”.

10 36. Defendant Glover likewise admitted in a sworn deposition in *Reyes &*
11 *Barsoum, LLP v. Knox Ricksen, LLP, et al., Case No. BC 572975 (Superior Court of*
12 *California, County of Los Angeles),* that he had accessed HQSU’s server and
13 downloaded over 32,000 workers’ compensation files. In that deposition testimony,
14 Glover testified that he first became aware of HQSU in October of 2012, and that he
15 was unable to access the server at that time.

18 37. Glover went on to testify that Defendant Zenith’s counsel was aware of
19 and approved his continued attempts to access the site. With the assistance of
20 Zenith’s information technology department, Glover was able to unlawfully access
21 and download files some 500 times in 2012 and 2013 and 2014.

24 38. The unlawful accessing and downloading of Plaintiff’s and others’ files
25 took place prior to any litigation being filed, and was entirely independent of
26 any litigation or other protected activity.

28 39. On information and belief, all defendants have conspired with one

1 another, and aided and abetted one another, to hack the litigation files of Plaintiff and
2 those of the proposed class members. The cyberattacks were planned and executed
3 by all defendants and the wrongfully obtained privileged information was
4 compromised by each of them to the detriment of plaintiff and the proposed class
5 members.
6

7
8 40. On November 24, 2014, in a second hearing regarding Mr. Casillas,
9 attorney Danowitz again admitted to downloading and possessing over 33,000
10 attorney files and documents. Moreover, attorney Danowitz now admitted to being in
11 possession of a thumb drive containing the 33,000 files.
12

13 41. During this second meeting on November 24, 2014, Danowitz showed
14 a video he recorded demonstrating defendant Reynolds illegally downloading the
15 privileged documents from the HQSU website.
16

17 42. The video clearly displays the illegal cyberattack, which Plaintiff's
18 experts have identified as a directory traversal attack. Directory traversal is an
19 HTTP exploit which allows attackers to access restricted directories and execute
20 commands outside of the web server's root directory.
21

22 43. Danowitz admitted that this conduct was intentional and not inadvertent
23 or accidental.
24

25 44. Defendants each conspired with one another, and aided and abetted one
26 another, to unlawfully obtain, publish and use the illegally obtain confidential files
27 of plaintiff and those similarly situated to obtain an advantage in litigation, to
28

1
2 diminish the financial exposure of the named defendant insurance companies and/or
3 to sell that information on the “black market” for profit.

4 45. The Hacking Defendants, and each of them, knew that they were
5 engaged in tortious and criminal conduct in furtherance of their conspiracy. Each
6 knew that members of the conspiracy were illegally obtaining confidential files
7 and holding them for use against adverse litigants or for financial gain.
8

9
10 46. Each of the hacking defendants, who are each co-conspirators, aided and
11 abetted the commission of the computer crimes enumerated in this Complaint as well
12 as the commission of intentional torts also enumerated in this Complaint. They each
13 provided substantial assistance or encouragement to the other co-conspirators to
14 commit theft of confidential files stored on a computer system and to then
15 distribute those files for their commercial advantage.
16

17
18 **COUNT ONE**
19 **(Violation of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1030, et seq.)**

20 **(Against All Hacking Defendants)**

21 47. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
22 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the
23 allegations.
24

25 48. The computers, computer networks, and computer services which stored
26 Plaintiff’s personal and privileged information are “protected computers” as
27 defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(2), and contain private and confidential information
28

1 which affects interstate commerce.

2
3 49. Federal law prohibits anyone from “intentionally accesses[ing] a
4 computer without authorization or exceeds authorized access, and thereby obtains
5 information contained in a financial record of a financial institution.” 18 U.S.C. §
6 1030(a)(2).
7

8 50. As alleged in detail above, the Hacking Defendants intentionally and
9 without authorization accessed Plaintiff’s personal and confidential information on
10 those protected computers and servers and obtained confidential information, in
11 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1030(a)(2)(C).
12

13 51. The Hacking Defendants’ unlawful conduct has caused Plaintiff to
14 suffer substantial loss or damages in an amount to be proven at trial but which during
15 a one-year period aggregates to at least \$5,000, and Defendants’ conduct causes a
16 threat to public safety. 18 U.S.C. §1030 (a)(5)(A), (B)(i) and (iv), (C).
17

18 52. The Hacking Defendants’ activity occurred within the last four (4) years
19 from the initiation of this litigation and constitutes a violation of the Computer Fraud
20 and Abuse Act, 18 U.S. C. § 1030(g), and Plaintiff is entitled to damages and
21 injunctive and equitable relief against Defendants under the Act.
22

23 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:
24

25 (a) Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against the Hacking Defendants in
26 an amount sufficient to compensate Plaintiff for her actual damages;
27
28

1 (b) Afford Plaintiff a trial by jury;

2 (c) Enjoin the Hacking Defendants from accessing without authorization
3 HQSU's computers and Plaintiff's electronic information;
4

5 (d) Destroy or return to Plaintiff any unlawfully obtained information; and

6 (e) Such other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.
7

8 **COUNT TWO**

9 **(Violation of the Unlawful Access to Stored Communications Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2701, et seq.)**

10 **(Against All Hacking Defendants)**

11
12 53. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
13 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the
14 allegations.
15

16 54. The federal Stored Communications Act ("SCA") broadly defines an
17 "electronic communication" as "any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images,
18 sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire,
19 radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic or photooptical system that affects interstate
20 or foreign commerce . . ." 18 U.S.C. § 2711(1); 18 U.S.C. § 2510(12).
21

22 55. Pursuant to the SCA, "electronic storage" means any "temporary storage
23 of a wire or electronic communication incidental to the electronic transmission
24 thereof." 18 U.S.C. § 2711(1); 18 U.S.C. § 2510(17)(A). This type of electronic
25 storage includes communications in intermediate electronic storage that have not yet
26 been delivered to their recipient.
27
28

1 56. Congress enacted the SCA to prevent “unauthorized persons deliberately
2 gaining access to, and sometimes tampering with, electronic or wire communications
3 that are not intended to be available to the public.” Senate Report No. 99-541, S.
4 REP. 99-541, 35, 1986 U.S.C.C.A.N. 3555, 3589.
5

6 57. As such, the SCA mandates, among other things, that it is unlawful for a
7 person to obtain access to stored communications on another’s computer system
8 without authorization. 18 U.S.C. § 2701(a).
9

10 58. The Hacking Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 2701(a)(1) by
11 intentionally accessing Plaintiff’s communications without authorization and
12 obtaining and/or altering authorized access to a wire or electronic communication
13 while in electronic storage, as alleged in detail above.
14
15

16 59. The Hacking Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 2701(a)(2) because they
17 intentionally exceeded authorization to access Plaintiffs’ communications and
18 obtained, altered, or prevented authorized access to a wire or electronic
19 communication while in electronic storage.
20

21 60. As a result of the Hacking Defendants’ conduct described herein, and its
22 violation of § 2701, Plaintiff has suffered substantial injuries and damage.
23

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

25 (a) Enjoin the Hacking Defendants’ conduct described herein;

26 (b) Award the maximum statutory and punitive damages available under 18
27 U.S.C. § 2707; and
28

1 (c) Such other and further relief that this Court deems just and proper.

2 **COUNT THREE**

3 **(Violation of the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2510, et**
4 **seq.)**

5 **(Against All Hacking Defendants)**

6 61. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
7 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the
8 allegations.
9

10 62. The Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2510 et seq.
11 (“ECPA”) defines “electronic communications system” as any wire, radio,
12 electromagnetic, photooptical or photoelectronic facilities for the transmission of
13 wire or electronic communication, and any computer facilities or related electronic
14 equipment for the electronic storage of such communications. 18 U.S.C. § 2510(14).
15

16 63. The ECPA broadly defines the “contents” of a communication, when
17 used with respect to any wire, oral, or electronic communications, to include any
18 information concerning the substance, purport, or meaning of that communication.
19 18 U.S.C. § 2510(8). “Contents,” when used with respect to any wire or oral
20 communication, includes any information concerning the identity of the parties to
21 such communication or the existence, substance, purport, or meaning of that
22 communication.
23

24 64. The Hacking Defendants violated 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(a) by
25 intentionally accessing, intercepting, and converting Plaintiff’s wire and/or electronic
26
27
28

1
2 communications to, from, and within HQSU's computers and servers, as alleged in
3 detail above.

4 65. The Hacking Defendants also violated 18 U.S.C. § 2511(1)(d) by
5 intentionally using, and endeavoring to use the contents of Plaintiff's wire and/or
6 electronic communications to profit from their unauthorized and unlawful activities.

7
8 66. The Hacking Defendants intentionally obtained and/or intercepted, by
9 device or otherwise, these wire and/or electronic communications, without the
10 knowledge, consent or authorization of Plaintiff.

11
12 67. Plaintiff suffered harm as a result of the Hacking Defendants' violations
13 of the ECPA.

14
15 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

16 (a) Grant preliminary, equitable and declaratory relief as may be appropriate;

17
18 (b) Award the sum of the actual damages suffered and the profits obtained by
19 the Hacking Defendants as a result of their unlawful conduct, or statutory damages
20 as authorized by 18 U.S.C. § 2520(2)(B), whichever is greater; and

21
22 (c) Award punitive damages and reasonable costs and attorneys' fees.

23 **COUNT FOUR**

24 **(Invasion of Privacy – Public Disclosure of Private Facts)**

25 **(Against All Hacking Defendants)**

26
27 68. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
28 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the

1 allegations.

2 69. As alleged in detail above, the Hacking Defendants published or caused
3 to be published to the public private facts concerning Plaintiff, including personal
4 and medical information.
5

6 70. The published facts were not of legitimate public concern, and the
7 publication would be offensive and objectionable to a reasonable person and was
8 offensive and objectionable to Plaintiff.
9

10 71. The Hacking Defendants acted with reckless disregard for the fact that a
11 reasonable person would find the invasion highly offensive.
12

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

14 (a) Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff on the claim of invasion of privacy;
15

16 (b) Award such compensatory as may be proven at trial;

17 (c) Award punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish and deter the
18 Hacking Defendants in the future; and
19

20 (d) Award such other and further relief as is just and appropriate.

21 **COUNT FIVE**

22 **(Violation of the California Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, Cal. Penal**
23 **Code § 502, et seq.)**

24 **(Against All Hacking Defendants)**

25 72. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
26 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the
27 allegations.
28

1
2 73. Plaintiff is the owner and rights, title, and interest in certain data
3 contained in the computer systems and servers owned and operated by HQSU
4 pursuant to § 502(b)(3), § 502(b)(6) and § 502(2)(1).
5

6 74. Defendants have violated California's Computer Crime law, including
7 but not limited to § 502(c)(1)(B), by knowingly accessing and without permission
8 obtaining property or data.
9

10 75. Defendants have violated California's Computer Crime law, including
11 but not limited to § 502(c)(2), and (7) by knowingly accessing and without
12 permission making use of data from a computer, computer system, or computer
13 network.
14

15 76. Defendants have violated California's Computer Crime law, including
16 but not limited to § 502(c)(4), by knowingly accessing and without permission
17 obtaining property or data.
18

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

20 (a) Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff on the claim of Violation of the
21 California Computer Data Access and Fraud Act, Cal. Penal Code § 502, et seq.
22 pursuant to § 502(e)(1)-(2);
23

24 (b) Award such compensatory as may be proven at trial;
25

26 (c) Enjoin any further violations of the California Computer Data Access
27 and Fraud Act;
28

1 (d) Award attorney's fees;

2 (e) Order that Defendants forfeit all data owned by Plaintiff unlawfully
3 obtained by Defendants; and
4

5 (f) Award such other and further relief as is just and appropriate.

6 **COUNT SIX**
7 **(Violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200)**

8 **(Against All Hacking Defendants)**
9

10 77. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
11 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the
12 allegations.
13

14 78. This cause of action is brought pursuant to California Unfair
15 Competition Law at Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.

16 79. Defendants' conduct constitutes unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent
17 business practices within the meaning of Business & Professions Code § 17200.
18

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

20 (a) Pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17203, Defendants, and each of
21 them, be ordered to make restitution and disgorge all earnings, profits, compensation,
22 benefits and other ill-gotten gains obtained by Defendants as a result of Defendants'
23 conduct in violation of Business & Professions Code § 17200, et seq.;
24

25 (b) Pursuant to Business & Professions Code § 17204, enjoin Defendants, and
26 each of them, from continuing to engage in the acts as set forth in this Complaint,
27
28

1 which acts constitute violations of Business & Professions Code § 17200 et seq.

2 Plaintiff will be irreparably harmed if such an order is not granted; and

3
4 (c) Award such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

5 **COUNT SEVEN**

6 **(Conversion)**

7 **(Against All Hacking Defendants)**

8 80. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
9 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the
10 allegations.
11

12 81. As alleged in detail herein, Plaintiff owned the privileged and
13 confidential information and data relating to her workers compensation claim.
14

15 82. Defendants intentionally and substantially interfered with Plaintiff's
16 property by unlawfully accessing and downloading copies of that data.
17

18 83. Plaintiff did not consent to Defendants' activity, as alleged herein.

19 84. Plaintiff was injured as a result of Defendants' unlawful conversion in
20 an amount to be proven at trial.
21

22 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

23 (a) Award compensatory general and special damages pursuant to Cal. Civ.
24 Code § 3336;
25

26 (b) Award Plaintiff's costs and fees, including attorney's fees, in bringing this
27 action; and
28

(c) Award such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT EIGHT

(Negligence)

(Against HQSU)

85. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the allegations.

86. Defendant HQSU owed a duty to Plaintiff to exercise reasonable care in obtaining, securing, safeguarding, and protecting Plaintiff's confidential and privileged information in its possession and to prevent it from being compromised, accessed, stolen, and used by unauthorized persons.

87. This duty included, among other things, designing and maintaining a security system that ensured Plaintiff's data was adequately secured and protected. HQSU further owed Plaintiff a duty to implement processes that detected breaches of its security system in a timely manner and to timely act upon security breaches, including notifying Plaintiff that her private data had been compromised.

88. HQSU owe Plaintiff a duty of care to because Plaintiff was a foreseeable and probable victim of any inadequate security practices. HQSU knew or should have known it had inadequately safeguarded its network, yet failed to take reasonable precautions against security breaches.

89. HQSU owed a duty to timely and accurately disclose to Plaintiff its

1 computer server had been or reasonably believed to have been compromised. Timely
2 disclosure was required, appropriate and necessary so that, among other things,
3
4 Plaintiff could take appropriate measures to avoid identity theft or fraud.

5 90. Plaintiff relied on and entrusted HQSU with confidential, private, and
6 privileged information, and HQSU was in a position to prevent unlawful access to
7
8 that data through the use of adequate and responsible security measures.

9 91. HQSU had a duty to take reasonable measures to protect and safeguard
10 Plaintiff's data.
11

12 92. HQSU breached that duty by negligently, grossly negligently, and
13 wantonly failing to take reasonable and adequate measure to secure and safeguard
14 Plaintiff's confidential information, and then by failing to inform Plaintiff when it
15
16 became aware that the information had been compromised.

17 93. Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer harm has a direct and
18 proximate result of HQSU's negligence and gross negligence.
19

20 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

21 (a) Award Plaintiff compensatory general and special damages;

22 (b) Award Plaintiff punitive damages as a result of HQSU's gross negligence
23 and wanton conduct;
24

25 (c) Award Plaintiff's costs and fees, including attorney's fees, in bringing this
26 action; and
27

28 (d) Award such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

COUNT NINE

(Violation of California Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Cal. Civ. Code§ 56, et seq.)

(Against HQSU)

94. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the allegations.

95. California Civil Code§ 56,etseq., known as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (“Medical Information Act”), requires companies which Receive medical information to establish appropriate procedures to ensure the Confidentiality and protection from unauthorized use and disclosure of that information.

96. At all relevant times, HQSU had a legal duty to protect the confidentiality of Plaintiff’s confidential and privileged information, which included medical information.

97. By failing to ensure adequate security systems were in place to Prevent access and disclosure of Plaintiff’s private medical information without written authorization, HQSU violated the Medical Information Act and its legal duty to protect the confidentiality of such information.

98. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 56.36, Plaintiff is entitled to nominal damages and statutory damages of \$1,000, as well as Plaintiff’s actual damages as proven at trial.

1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

2 (a) Award Plaintiff nominal and statutory damages of \$1000.00;

3 (b) Award Plaintiff compensatory damages for actual harm suffered;

4 (c) Award Plaintiff's costs and fees, including attorney's fees, in bringing this
5 action; and
6

7 (d) Award such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.
8

9 **COUNT TEN**

10 **(Violation of California Data Security and Breach Notification Act, Cal. Civ.
11 Code § 1798.80, et seq.)**

12 **(Against HQSU)**

13 99. Plaintiff incorporates each and every allegation of the foregoing
14 paragraphs as if fully set forth herein, and specifically repeats and re-alleges the
15 allegations.
16

17 100. The California Data Security and Breach Notification Act, Cal. Civ.
18 Code § 1798.80, et seq. (the "Data Security Act") provided, at the time relevant to
19 the acts and omissions in this Complaint, that businesses which hold private and
20 confidential information of California residents must implement and maintain
21 reasonable security measures to protect personal data about those residents. Id., §
22 1798.81.5.
23
24

25 101. The personal information protected by the Data Security Act includes a
26 resident's first name or initial and last name, in combination with one or more of the
27 following: (i) social security number; (ii) driver's license; (iii) account number,
28

1 credit or debit card number in combination with any required security code, access
2 code or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account; or
3
4 (iv) medical information – i.e., individually identifiable information about an
5 individual's medial history, medical treatment or diagnosis by a health care
6 professional.

7
8 102. In addition to requiring adequate security measures, the Act also
9 requires that the affected resident be notified in the event of a data security breach.

10 103. HQSU violated each of these provisions by failing to provide adequate
11 security measures and failing to notify Plaintiff after learning that HQSU's system
12 had been breached and Plaintiff's confidential information had been compromised.

13
14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court:

15 (a) Award Plaintiff nominal and statutory damages of \$1000.00;

16 (b) Award Plaintiff compensatory damages for actual harm suffered;

17 (c) Award Plaintiff's costs and fees, including attorney's fees, in bringing this
18
19 action; and
20

21 (d) Award such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

22
23 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

24 104. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
25 23 on behalf of himself and the classes preliminarily defined as:

26
27 **Nationwide Class**

28 105. Current and former persons whose legal files were unlawfully accessed

1
2 and downloaded by Defendants.

3 106. Excluded from the proposed classes are anyone employed by counsel
4 for Plaintiff in this action and any Judge to whom this case is assigned, as well as her
5 or her staff and immediate family.
6

7 107. Plaintiff satisfies the numerosity, commonality, typicality, and
8 adequacy prerequisites for suing as a representative party pursuant to Rule 23.
9

10 108. Numerosity. The proposed class consists of thousands of persons
11 nationwide whose legal files were unlawfully and without authorization accessed and
12 downloaded by Defendants, including between 3000 to 5000 former and current
13 clients of Reyes & Barsoum, as well as tens of thousands of other individuals, who
14 had their data stolen by defendants' conduct as described above, making joinder of
15 each individual class member impracticable.
16

17 109. Commonality. Common questions of law and fact exist for the
18 proposed class' claims and predominate over questions affecting only individual
19 class members. Common questions include:
20

21 a. Whether defendants violated the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18
22 U.S.C. §§1030 et seq.;

23 b. Whether defendants violated the Unlawful Access to Stored
24 Communications Act, 18 U.S.C. §§2701 et seq.;

25 c. Whether defendants violated the California Business and Professions Code
26
27
28

1 §§17200, et seq.;

2 d. Whether defendants violated the California Computer Data Access and
3 Fraud Act, California Penal Code §§502, et seq.;

4 e. Whether defendants invaded the privacy of the class members;

5 f. Whether defendants intentionally interfered with the class members'
6 prospective economic advantages.
7

8
9 110. Typicality. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the proposed
10 classes because, among other things, Plaintiff and class members sustained similar
11 injuries as a result of defendants' wrongful conduct and their legal claims all arise
12 from the intentional and illegal cyberattack on their legal files.
13

14 111. Adequacy. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of
15 the classes. her interests do not conflict with class members' interests and he has
16 retained counsel experienced in complex class action and data privacy litigation to
17 vigorously prosecute this action on behalf of the classes.
18

19
20 112. In addition to satisfying the prerequisites of Rule 23(a), Plaintiff
21 satisfies the requirements for maintaining a class action under Rule 23(b)(3).
22 Common questions of law and fact predominate over any questions affecting only
23 individual class members and a class action is superior to individual litigation. The
24 amount of damages available to individual plaintiffs is insufficient to make litigation
25 addressing defendants' conduct economically feasible in the absence of the class
26 action procedure. Individualized litigation also presents a potential for inconsistent
27
28

1 or contradictory judgments, and increases the delay and expense to all parties and the
2 court system presented by the legal and factual issues of the case. By contrast, the
3 class action device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the
4 benefits of a single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision
5 by a single court.
6

7
8 113. In addition, class certification is appropriate under Rule 23(b)(1) or
9 (b)(2) because:

10 a. The prosecution of separate actions by the individual members of the
11 proposed classes would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudication which
12 would establish incompatible standards of conduct for defendants;
13

14 b. The prosecution of separate actions by individual class members would
15 create a risk of adjudications with respect to them which would, as a practical matter,
16 be dispositive of the interests of other class members not parties to the adjudications,
17 or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests; and
18

19 c. Defendants have acted or have refused to act on grounds that apply
20 generally to the proposed class, thereby making final injunctive relief described
21 herein appropriate with respect to the proposed class as a whole.
22

23
24 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

25 **(On All Causes of Action)**

26 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that the Court:
27

28 1. Certify a nationwide class of Plaintiffs affected and injured by Defendants'

1
2 unlawful conduct as alleged herein;

3 2. Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against the Defendants.

4 3. Declare that Defendants' conduct has been willful and that Defendants have
5 acted with fraud, malice and oppression.
6

7 4. Enter a preliminary and permanent injunction enjoining Defendants and
8 their officers, directors, principals, agents, servants, employees, successors, and
9 assigns, and all persons and entities in active concert or participation with them, from
10 engaging in any of the activity complained of herein or from causing any of the
11 injury complained of herein and from assisting, aiding or abetting any other person
12 or business entity in engaging in or performing any of the activity complained of
13 herein or from causing any of the injury complained of herein.
14
15

16 5. Enter a preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from
17 accessing, downloading, or otherwise using any data or information from HQSU's
18 computer systems or any other system housing Plaintiff's privileged and confidential
19 material.
20
21

22 6. Enter judgment awarding Plaintiff actual damages from Defendants
23 adequate to compensate Plaintiff for Defendants' activity complained of herein and
24 for any injury complained of herein, including but not limited to interest and costs, in
25 an amount to be proven at trial.
26

27 7. Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff disgorging Defendants' profits.
28

1 8. Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff awarding enhanced, exemplary and
2 special damages, in an amount to be proved at trial.

3
4 9. Enter judgment in favor of Plaintiff awarding attorneys' fees and costs, and;

5 10. Order such other relief that the Court deems just and reasonable.

6 Respectfully Submitted,

7
8 Dated: April 19, 2016

LAW OFFICE OF MARK RAVIS & ASSOCIATES

9
10 /s/ David Martin

11 _____
David Martin

12 Attorneys for Plaintiff & Proposed Class
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